WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for matching character sets, comprising:

2   storing one or more data set files;

3   creating one or more character set files, wherein each character set file is

4   associated with a character set and includes indexes associated with the one or more data

5   set files;

6   receiving a request specifying one or more character sets; and

7   identifying one or more of the data set files that contain one or more of the

8   requested character sets using the indexes in the character set files.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   creating an array of index entries, wherein each index entry in the array

3   corresponds to a character set file and stores an index stored in the corresponding

4   character set file; and

5   comparing a current index entry to a compared index entry.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2   if the current index entry is less than the compared index entry, selecting another

3   index entry for comparison.

1   4.   The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2   if the current index entry is greater than the compared index entry,

3   replacing the current index entry with the compared index entry; and

4   resetting zero or more update indicators.

1   5.   The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2   if the current index entry is equal to the compared index entry,

3   incrementing a matching counter; and

4   setting an update indicator for the compared index entry.

1   6.   The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2   if all of the index entries in the array have been selected for comparison,

3   incrementing a matching counter; and

4   storing the index in the current index entry in an output file associated

5   with a value of a matching counter associated with the index.

1   7.   The method of claim 6, further comprising:

2   if all of the indexes in the character set files have not been selected for

3   comparison,

4   updating the current index entry; and

5   updating any index entry whose update indicator is set.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, further comprising:

2   if all of the indexes in the character set files have been selected, outputting a

3   number of output files that is equivalent to the number of character set files, wherein each

4   output file stores zero or more indexes.

1   9.   An article of manufacture for matching character sets, wherein the article

2   of manufacture is capable of causing operations, the operations comprising:

3   storing one or more data set files;

4   creating one or more character set files, wherein each character set file is

5   associated with a character set and includes indexes associated with the one or more data

6   set files;

1   receiving a request specifying one or more character sets; and

2   identifying one or more of the data set files that contain one or more of the

3 requested character sets using the indexes in the character set files.

1   10.   The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein the operations further

2 comprise:

3   creating an array of index entries, wherein each index entry in the array

4 corresponds to a character set file and stores an index stored in the corresponding

5 character set file; and

6   comparing a current index entry to a compared index entry.

1   11.   The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the operations further

2 comprise:

3   if the current index entry is less than the compared index entry, selecting another

4 index entry for comparison.

1   12.   The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the operations further

2 comprise:

3   if the current index entry is greater than the compared index entry,

4   replacing the current index entry with the compared index entry; and

             resetting zero or more update indicators.

1   13.   The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the operations further

2 comprise:

3   if the current index entry is equal to the compared index entry,

4   incrementing a matching counter; and

5   setting an update indicator for the compared index entry.

1   14.   The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the operations further

2   comprise:

3   if all of the index entries in the array have been selected for comparison,

4   incrementing a matching counter; and

5   storing the index in the current index entry in an output file associated

6   with a value of a matching counter associated with the index.

1   15.   The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the operations further

2   comprise:

3   if all of the indexes in the character set files have not been selected for

4   comparison,

5   updating the current index entry; and

6   updating any index entry whose update indicator is set.

1   16.   The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the operations further

2   comprise:

3   if all of the indexes in the character set files have been selected, outputting a

4   number of output files that is equivalent to the number of character set files, wherein each

output file stores zero or more indexes.

1   17.   A system for matching character sets, comprising:

2   means for storing one or more data set files;

3   means for creating one or more character set files, wherein each character set file

4   is associated with a character set and includes indexes associated with the one or more

5   data set files;

6   means for receiving a request specifying one or more character sets; and

7   means for identifying one or more of the data set files that contain one or more of

8   the requested character sets using the indexes in the character set files.

1   18.   The system of claim 17, further comprising:

2   means for creating an array of index entries, wherein each index entry in the array

3   corresponds to a character set file and stores an index stored in the corresponding

4   character set file; and

5   means for comparing a current index entry to a compared index entry.

1   19.   The system of claim 18, further comprising:

2   means for, if the current index entry is less than the compared index entry,

3   selecting another index entry for comparison.

1   20.   The system of claim 18, further comprising:

2   means for, if the current index entry is greater than the compared index entry,

3   (i) replacing the current index entry with the compared index entry; and

4   (ii) resetting zero or more update indicators.

1   21.   The system of claim 18, further comprising:

2   means for, if the current index entry is equal to the compared index entry,

3   (i) incrementing a matching counter; and

4   (ii) setting an update indicator for the compared index entry.

1   22.   The system of claim 18, further comprising:

2   means for, if all of the index entries in the array have been selected for

3   comparison,

4   (i) incrementing a matching counter; and

5   (ii) storing the index in the current index entry in an output file associated

6   with a value of a matching counter associated with the index.

1   23.   The system of claim 22, further comprising:

2   means for, if all of the indexes in the character set files have not been selected for

3 comparison,

4   (i) updating the current index entry; and

5   (ii) updating any index entry whose update indicator is set.

1   24.   The system of claim 23, further comprising:

2   means for, if all of the indexes in the character set files have been selected,

3 outputting a number of output files that is equivalent to the number of character set files,

4 wherein each output file stores zero or more indexes.